



METROPOLITAN ECUMENICAL MINISTRY

404 University Avenue • Newark, New Jersey 07102 • (201) 623-9259

METROPOLITAN ECUMENICAL MINISTRY OFFICERS

Wellington Brown, Chair
 Beatrice Slaten, 1st Vice Chair
 Rev. Lin Powell, 2nd Vice Chair
 Monsignor John J. Maloney, Treasurer
 Gerald Weaver, Secretary

METROPOLITAN ECUMENICAL MINISTRY BOARD MEMBERS

American Baptist Churches	Rev. Bernardino Martinez
Committee Black Churchmen	Rev. Carl Hunter
Committee Black Churchmen	Rev. T. Van B. Rhoe
Episcopal Churches	Dean Dillard Robinson III
Presbytery of Newark	(to be appointed)
Archdiocese of Newark	Sister Mary Walter
United Church of Christ	Donald Clark
United Church of Christ	Robert Youngs
United Methodist Church	Rev. John Dexheimer
United Methodist Church	Rev. James Terry
Lutheran Synod of N.J.	Rev. Kenneth Simurro
Lutheran Synod of N.J.	Rev. Gerry Rickel
Unitarian-Universalist Churches	Martha Jewett
Unitarian-Universalist Churches	Joan Sinden
Church Women United	Georgia Tuttle
Reformed Church in America	(to be appointed)
Member-At-Large	Bishop Curtis Gilmore
Member-At-Large	Rev. Charles McCombs
Member-At-Large	Frank Ferruggia
Member-At-Large	Esther Brome
Member-At-Large	Howard Bragg

METROPOLITAN ECUMENICAL MINISTRY SPONSORS

American Baptist
 Catholic Archdiocese of Newark
 Church Women United
 Episcopal Churches
 Lutheran Synod
 Reformed Church in America
 United Church of Christ
 United Methodist Church
 Presbytery of Newark
 Unitarian-Universalist Churches
 Newark-North Jersey Committee
 of Black Churchman

BIRTH OF THE METROPOLITAN ECUMENICAL MINISTRY

Soon after the Newark rebellion, the Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry (MEM) was founded in 1969. Twenty years later in 1989, the original Statement of purpose for this inter-church agency is as relevant today as it was then:

"In order that the participating churches and denominations may more effectively carry out their mission as agents of God's grace in the greater Newark metropolitan area and in the world, the Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry exists to -

- enable the churches to respond relevantly to the challenge and needs of the urban crisis in this area.
- become the channel for the comprehensive and meaningful ecumenical strategy in this metropolitan region.
- focus the concern and resources of the churches and others of good will on the problems of racism, poverty and injustice that exist throughout the metropolitan area.
- support directly and indirectly those moves which will enable those people victimized by racism, poverty and injustice to participate more fully in the economic, political, social and educational processes to the end that they will achieve control of and responsibility for their own destinies.
- mobilize the resources, human, financial and spiritual, of the churches to work toward the realization of those goals throughout this metropolitan area."

OUR COMMON CHALLENGE

Empowered by God's strength, graced by His mercy and enlivened by His love for all of our neighbors, we are able to take a fresh look at the unmet needs of so many men, women and children in Newark and nearby towns:

- Newark is the poorest large city in America, according to the 1980 U.S. Census.
- 107,000 of Newark's 320,000 population live below the poverty line.
- One-fourth of Newark citizens receive some form of public assistance.
- Between 6,000 and 8,000 families are homeless.

- Thousands of families are on the waiting list of the Newark Housing Authority at a time when the Authority plans to demolish high rise rental housing projects, and few new rental units are being built for occupancy by low-income families.
- The Newark public school system has a 50% drop-out rate.
- An estimated 25,000 adult citizens can neither read nor write.
- Half of employable youth, ages 16-21, are jobless.
- Newark citizens suffer from environmental pollution - for example, parts of Newark have the highest levels of poisonous dioxin in the nation.

Some people in the Oranges, Irvington and other nearby towns also are poor, hungry, homeless and are in need of assistance and signs of hope.

INTER-CHURCH COOPERATION TODAY

In 1969 five Protestant denominations founded MEM. Twenty years later MEM is supported by the Presbytery of Newark, the Northern New Jersey Conference of the United Methodist Church, the New Jersey Association of the United Church of Christ, the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey, some Episcopal churches, the Lutheran Synod of New Jersey, the Unitarian-University Society of New Jersey, the Archdiocese of Newark, the Essex County Chapter of Church Women United and the Newark-North Jersey Committee of Black Churchmen. The Board of Directors of MEM consists of two appointed members from each judicatory agency and six members are at-large. Board members elect their own officers at the beginning of each year and establish committees as needs dictate.

MEM PROGRAMS TODAY

With the support of the above listed judicatory bodies, national denominations, foundations, corporations, individual churches and personal donors, MEM sponsors the following programs:

1. **PROJECT SCHOOLS** is a parent empowering resource and advocacy center. The Project provides parents with training and technical assistance to effectively advocate for public school reforms. Through parent training classes, forums and conferences, Project Schools has successfully focused on the business community, churches and citizens on the needs of urban schools and has brought them together with community organizations to implement solutions. These activities have improved attendance and test scores at local schools. For further information, call Project Schools Director, Stephan Jones at 623-9259.

2. **MEM's HOUSING TASK FORCE** is an advocate for the homeless tenants, thousands of families on the waiting list of the Newark Housing Authority and thousands of poor families suffering from spiraling rents and the gentrification process. At a time when public rental units are being demolished and few public rentals units are being constructed, the Task Force falls upon Federal, State and City Governments to provide shelter for the homeless and construction of thousands of new rental units. The Task Force supports reasonable rent control and works with tenants through the Coalition to Save Rent Control, the HUD Tenant Coalition and the Newark Coalition for Low-Income Housing. Believing that safe and affordable housing is a right rather than a privilege, the Task Force cooperates with a State-Wide Right To Housing Coalition. For further information call the **Housing Task Force Co-Chairs, Nancy Zak at 344-7208 and Frank Hutchins at 624-4500.**
3. **MEM's TOXIC WASTE TASK FORCE** assists church congregations and community organizations in resisting the construction of garbage incinerators, supporting local recycling programs and demanding the clean up of hazardous waste sites containing dioxin, radon and other poisonous substances. The Task Force works closely with the state-wide Grass Roots Environmental Organization (GREGO) and its affiliated 100 community environmental groups in a state with the highest number of toxic waste sites in America. The Task Force conducts training workshops for church and community groups and has prepared worship materials used by churches on Environmental Sundays. For further information call the **Task Force Chair and the Director of GREGO, Madelyn Hoffman at 429-8965.**
4. **MEM's YOUTH EMPLOYMENT REFERRAL NETWORK (PROJECT YERN)** is recruiting, training and finding jobs for many unemployed and drop-out city youths with the help of adult volunteer advisors who have established a close one-to-one relationship with each young person. YERN is seeking more adult volunteers from church and community organizations and solicits the cooperation of employers willing to offer jobs to such youth. For more information, call the **YERN PROJECT director, Michael Westbrook at 623-9259.**
5. **PROJECT READ** is an adult literacy program serving Newark and Essex County. We recruit and train volunteers to teach reading and writing to adult students on a one-to-one basis. Tutors and students work together in churches, libraries, community centers and other sites throughout the community. We use the Laubach Literacy method, and have offered instruction to more than 2,500 adults over the past 12 years. Project Read is an independent program that maintains an office in the same building at MEM. Potential Project Read volunteers and students may register by calling **Project Read Director Claudia Conners at 596-1377.**

6. SHARE is a self-help, non-governmental food supplementary program that benefits over 10,000 families each month in cooperation with 200 sponsoring church congregations and community organizations. Founded with the help of MEM two years ago, SHARE asks each participating family to give \$12.00 at the beginning of each month and to contribute at least two hours of community service each month. At the end of the month, each family receives back \$36.00 worth of diet-balanced groceries. SHARE also distributes U.S. Government surplus foods to 15,000 needy families each month. The SHARE headquarters is located in a warehouse at 436 Ferry Street in the Ironbound section Newark and serves families of Essex County and other counties. For further information call the SHARE Director, Sister Beatrice Ryan at 344-2400.
7. THE INTER-CHURCH MISSION OF MEM includes: the holding of MEM-sponsored, Project-sponsored or Task Force-sponsored convocations and workshops; working with the recently formed Newark Church Consultation which has sponsored inter-church events at the Sacred Heart Cathedral; the publication of the PROJECT SCHOOLS newspaper; visits of MEM Board members and staff members to churches to meet with pastors, appropriate committees and, occasionally, to speak at church forums and Sunday worship services.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURES

To improve the accountability of MEM to its many supporters, MEM has long employed an accountant and an auditor. In 1988 we had the following income and expenditures:

Income

<i>Individual Churches</i>	<i>\$ 14,000</i>
<i>Judicatory Church agencies</i>	<i>25,000</i>
<i>Foundations, Corporations</i>	
<i>and National denominations</i>	<i><u>161,000</u></i>
	<i>\$200,000</i>

Expenditures

<i>Staff Costs</i>	<i>\$115,000</i>
<i>Program Costs</i>	<i><u>65,000</u></i>
	<i>\$180,000</i>

Since 1970 when MEM obtained its 501 (C) 3 Status from the Internal Revenue Service, all contributions to MEM have been tax deductible.

THE GOALS OF THE METROPOLITAN ECUMENICAL MINISTRY

Through its programs and the participation of church and community people in them, the **Metropolitan Ecumenical Ministry**, constant with the original statement and our purpose of 20 years ago seeks:

- To inform the large community of Newark and nearby towns about people in our midst who suffer from poverty, hunger, homelessness, illiteracy, and other problems in our neighborhoods.
- To shed the light of the Gospel on the conditions of the poor and to help local churches to minister to the needs of such folk.
- To build a bridge of understanding between urban and suburban congregations, between races and people of all ethnic origins.
- To be a recognized church spokesperson for justice with needy in meetings with mayors, city council members, Congress members and Senators, corporate executives and church congregations.

Members of the MEM staff and the MEM Board would welcome an opportunity to visit your church for the purpose of meeting with clergy, mission committees and congregations to tell the MEM story. Present members of the MEM staff and leaders of related projects are;

David S. Burgess	- Executive Director
Stephan Jones	- Project Schools Director
Doris Lewis	- Project Schools Parent Organizer
Tulibah Mohammad	- Project Schools Parent Organizer
Michael Westbrook	- Project YERN Director
Nancy Zak	- Co-Chair of Housing Task Force
Frank Hutchins	- Co-Chair of Housing Task Force
Madelyn Hoffman	- Chair of Toxic Waste Task Force
Claudia Connors	- Director of Project READ
Sister Beatrice Ryan	- Director of Project SHARE

YOUR CHURCH'S PARTICIPATION IN MEM

On behalf of its poor and all the forgotten people of Newark and Essex County, MEM seeks greater participation of local church members in our programs and ongoing financial support from local church congregations. To build a broader base of financial support, MEM is asking all Catholic and Protestant churches in Essex County to join our organization by agreeing to pay one of the following three amounts annually:

\$ 100.00	As a Contributing Church
500.00	As a Sponsoring Church
1,000.00	As a Benefactor Church

**WE WELCOME ALL CONTRIBUTIONS, IRRESPECTIVE OF THE AMOUNT
ONE-TIME CONTRIBUTIONS ARE SINCERELY APPRECIATED.**

Your church's contribution, along with the completed form below, can be mailed to MEM at 404 University Avenue, Newark, New Jersey 07102.

Name of Church _____

Church Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Church Telephone _____

Name of Pastor(s) _____

Please indicate which applies:

- () The enclosed is a one time gift
- () The enclosed is a quarterly gift/commitment
- () The enclosed is an annual gift/commitment